

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell those who happen to be mortgage holders across America they have a surprise in store. It is the Republican Christmas tax.

Here is what it is all about: In order to force the President's hand on this budget negotiation, Speaker GINGRICH has suggested he would close down the Government.

Major economists know if that occurs interest rates go up. People who have adjusted rate mortgages, where the interest rates vary as those interest rates go up, will have to pay more on their monthly mortgage payment.

So Merry Christmas, America. What Speaker GINGRICH would like to do is close down the Government, raise the interest rates, force higher payments on people's home mortgages.

We just read in the paper this morning working families are finding it tougher than ever to get by. They do not need to receive this sort of Christmas gift from Speaker GINGRICH, this kind of hidden tax, that imposes a greater burden on families in America. It is unfair.

What we need is a bipartisan, commonsense approach that does not cut Medicare, that does not provide a tax break for the wealthiest of Americans. That is what people sent us to Washington to do.

TAXPAYER-SUBSIDIZED LOBBYING

(Mr. COBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, if one were to take the time to explain the current controversy over taxpayer-subsidized lobbying to the average American, I have no doubt that the Istook-McIntosh-Ehrlich language would win easy approval.

Most of my constituents are flabbergasted to learn that taxpayer-subsidized lobbying occurs at all. They do not believe it is an appropriate use of their tax dollars. It is only inside the beltway that it is considered normal for groups to receive Federal grants that enable those same groups to lobby for more Federal grants. Mr. Speaker, this pernicious practice must end.

A few weeks ago, the House voted to retain the Istook language in an appropriations bill. Now, it is doubtful that that bill will ever make it to the Senate floor. And Senate conferences on a different vehicle have refused to add it to that bill. Mr. Speaker, the instincts of the average American are right. No one can plausibly justify the continuation of taxpayer-subsidized lobbying as we have come to know it.

Mr. Speaker, let us say no to business as usual and at the same time stand up for the taxpayer. Yes to the Istook-McIntosh language on Treasury—Postal.

PROHIBITING DEFENSE CONTRACTORS FROM LOBBYING

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, basically what is going on here is not a debate about will we cut the budget. Of course. It is not a debate about will we cut the deficit. Of course. The question is who bears the brunt of the cuts, and is that fair.

You know, we just heard a 1-minute about charities lobbying. Well, I have an amendment trying to prohibit defense contractors from lobbying. Guess what, it got turned down. You talk about federally subsidized lobbying, and boy, did it pay off. They are getting about \$8 billion more in defense dollars than the President asked for or the Joint Chiefs of Staff asked for.

So to get to a balanced budget then, if you are going to let those paid lobbyists have their way, you are going to have to cut someone else. So who are we cutting? Well, we hear the Speaker saying he hopes Medicare dies on the vine, so I guess we are going to cut the older people. We see people saying we have got to do away with nursing home provisions and so forth.

So the issue is not will we, the question is how we, and the question is who we listen to.

VOTE "YES" ON THE PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BAN

(Mr. HOSTETTLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, my friends, can 3 inches really be our guide to death over live?

Can 3 inches determine the definition of "person" under the 14th and 5th amendments?

Have we become so hardened in our hearts that not even the killing of a child during birth can be recognized as wrong?

It was not always so in America. At one point in our history, "We held these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life * * *"

God have mercy on us.

I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 1833, the partial birth abortion ban.

SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, adjust your hearing aids, purchase new spectacles. Yes, if you were surprised to hear NEWT GINGRICH telling the truth for a change that he wanted, as his words say, "Now, we don't get rid of it

in round one," referring to Medicare, "because we don't think that is politically smart, and we don't think that is the right way to go through a transition period; but we believe it is going to wither on the vine," then you have not been listening and you have not been watching.

Because there is nothing new about this plan to wreck Medicare. It was only in February that his very own Progress and Freedom Foundation newspaper entitled their lead editorial "For Freedom's Sake, Eliminate Social Security," and proceeded to say it is time to slay the largest Government entitlement program of all, Social Security.

What we have had here this year is round 1 of eliminating and destroying Medicare and Social Security.

The Republicans did not come to this Congress to save Social Security and Medicare. They came to bury it.

WHAT DOES THE PRESIDENT REALLY WANT?

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I suspect that most Americans are confused as to what the President wants in a Federal budget. The President has said that he wants, one, a plan that will balance the Federal budget in 7 years; two, a plan that will save Medicare from bankruptcy; three, a plan that will end welfare as we know it; and, four, a plan that will cut taxes for families and reduce the capital gains tax to spur job creation and economic growth.

But the President has never presented a plan that would balance the budget and do these other things. The Congress has. However, the President has announced he intends to veto this plan that will balance the budget the House and Senate will shortly send to him.

Mr. Speaker, I, for one, do not understand why the President would veto the only plan that will balance the Federal budget and accomplish the goals he says he supports which is also what the American people want.

Why go through all of that trouble? What does the President really want, Mr. Speaker?

PLAYING WITH FIRE

(Mr. BENTSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, there are some in this House who have suggested that perhaps the United States should default on its debt limit and, therefore, default on Treasury bonds.

As one who came to this House from the private sector, who came to this House from the securities industry, let